

# ESA Celebrates National American Indian Heritage Month

**FROM: Economic Services Administration**

**TO: DSHS**

On Wednesday, November 2nd the Division of Child Support, Tribal Relations Team and the Community Services Division, hosted our 12th annual celebration of National American Indian Heritage Month.

Each year we celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month to recognize the significant contributions the First Americans made to the establishment, growth, and culture of the United States. During the event we displayed a continuous slide show of photos taken at many years of partnership events such as Tribal Canoe Journeys and prior Heritage Month events.

Staff attended the Celebration at the Capital View 1 Building in Olympia. Our Program included:

- Potluck and dessert luncheon
- Drummers and dancers from the Wa He Lut Indian School
- ESA speakers
- Tribal informational resource table



We express our sincere appreciation to those who donated food, cash, and time. Your generosity assured everyone could enjoy the luncheon, dessert, drinks, and the Wa He Lut dancers. We are humbled by many heartfelt appreciative comments that confirmed our event was a huge success.

In November, ESA Headquarters will continue to celebrate American Indian Heritage Month by offering Brown Bag lunch videos each Tuesday at noon. The videos will focus on the following topics: Tribal Canoe Journeys, Restoration of the Lower Elwha River, Cultural Connections for Native American Children, and American Indian Pow Wows and Dance. If you plan to attend, please email Stacey Bushaw at [bushask@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:bushask@dshs.wa.gov) and she will reserve a chair for you.

Participation in American Indian Heritage Month events like these provide a great opportunity for ESA staff to better understand tribal culture, history, tribal sovereignty, and our government-to-government relationships and partnerships with each other.